



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/597,390	07/24/2006	Tokumi Kobayashi	P30306	1319
52123 7590 08/24/2007 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER SHECHTMAN, SEAN P	
			ART UNIT 2125	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 08/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

mn

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/597,390	Applicant(s) KOBAYASHI, TOKUMI	
	Examiner Sean P. Shechtman	Art Unit 2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/2/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination. Claims 1-8 have been amended, Claims 9-15 have been added.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. Correction is required.

See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1, 6, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Art Unit: 2125

Referring to claim 1, 6, the claims recite the limitation “the device”, however the claims previously recite “a device” and “every device”. Therefore the recitation of “the device” in the same or subsequent claim is unclear because it is uncertain which of the devices was intended (MPEP 2173.05(e)). For purposes of examination, it will be assumed that “the device” is each of said every devices.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the maintenance data" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It will be assumed that this is recited after the recitation of a database for storing maintenance data, similar to claim 1.

Referring to claims 2, 7, lines 3-4 are unclear.

Referring to claim 9, lines 3-5 are unclear.

Claims 8, 15, are indefinite because the acronym PHS has not been defined by the claim. It will be assumed to be a personal handphone system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/31717 to Liiri (hereinafter referred to as Liiri), supplied by applicant.

Referring to claims 1, 6, Liiri teaches:

a plurality of devices each of which has an identification code given thereto for identifying the corresponding device (Page 9, lines 1-7);

Art Unit: 2125

a database for storing maintenance data for each device (Page 3, lines 20-28; Page 4, lines 1-13), the maintenance data including location data indicating the location of the device (Page 9, lines 21- Page 10, lines 8);

a data management unit for recording and reading the maintenance data for each device into/from the database (Page 3, lines 20-28; Page 4, lines 1-13);

a mobile terminal including reading device for reading an identification code of a device, and having a function of inputting and outputting the read identification code together with the maintenance data (Page 9, lines 1-7 and Page 9, lines 21 – Page 10, line 8); and

communication device for sending and receiving the maintenance data between the mobile terminal and the data management unit (Page 9, lines 9-29).

2, 3, 7. The system for managing a device that requires maintenance according to claim 6, wherein the mobile terminal is provided with a barcode reader as reading device of the identification code (Page 5, lines 1-17).

5, 13, 14. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the maintenance data further includes history data including performance of the device and history of repair (Page 5, lines 26-31).

9. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the location data is inputted via the mobile terminal when the device is attached to the apparatus or the device is removed from the apparatus is stored in the data management unit (Page 9, lines 21 – Page 10, line 8).

10. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the location data of the device stored in the data management unit is read by inquiring

Art Unit: 2125

via the mobile terminal, and the read location data is displayed on a display portion of the mobile terminal (Page 9, lines 21 – Page 10, line).

5. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0139176 to Fujiwara et al (hereinafter referred to as Fujiwara).

Referring to claims 1, 6, Fujiwara teaches:

a plurality of devices each of which has an identification code given thereto for identifying the corresponding device (See Fig. 13);

a database for storing maintenance data for each device, the maintenance data including location data indicating the location of the device (Page 8, paragraph 127; Fig. 13A; Page 10, paragraph 153; Page 17, paragraph 242);

a data management unit for recording and reading the maintenance data for each device into/from the database (Page 8, paragraph 127-129);

a mobile terminal including reading device for reading an identification code of a device, and having a function of inputting and outputting the read identification code together with the maintenance data (Page 8, paragraph 133-135; Page 10, paragraph 153-154; Page 19, paragraph 256; Page 20, paragraph 272); and

communication device for sending and receiving the maintenance data between the mobile terminal and the data management unit (Pages 3-4, paragraph 80).

4. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a component-mounting machine, and the device is a parts feeder for

Art Unit: 2125

supplying a component or a suction nozzle for holding a component by suction (Page 3, paragraph 79).

5. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the maintenance data further includes history data including performance of the device and history of repair (Page 9, paragraph 143; Fig. 13).

8. The system for managing a device that requires maintenance according to claim 6, wherein the communication device comprises PHS radio communication device (Pages 3-4, paragraph 80).

9. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the location data is inputted via the mobile terminal when the device is attached to the apparatus or the device is removed from the apparatus is stored in the data management unit (Page 8, paragraph 133-135; Page 10, paragraph 153-154; Page 19, paragraph 256; Page 20, paragraph 272).

10. The management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the location data of the device stored in the data management unit is read by inquiring via the mobile terminal, and the read location data is displayed on a display portion of the mobile terminal (Page 8, paragraph 135; Page 10, paragraph 154).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 3, 7, 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara as applied to claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 above, and further in view of J.P. Pub. No. 2001-127487 to Yokomori (hereinafter referred to as Yokomori), supplied by applicant.

Referring to claims 11, 12, Fujiwara teaches the management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a component-mounting machine, and the device is a parts feeder for supplying a component or a suction nozzle for holding a component by suction (Page 3, paragraph 79).

Referring to claims 13, 14, Fujiwara teaches the management method for a device that requires maintenance according to claim 1, wherein the maintenance data further includes history data including performance of the device and history of repair (Page 9, paragraph 143; Fig. 13).

Referring to claims 15, Fujiwara teaches the system for managing a device that requires maintenance according to claim 6, wherein the communication device comprises PHS radio communication device (Pages 3-4, paragraph 80).

Referring to claims 2, 3, 7, Fujiwara teaches all of the limitations set forth above, however fails to teach the mobile terminal is provided with a barcode reader as reading device of the identification code.

However, referring to claims 2, 3, 7, Yokomori teaches a terminal is provided with a barcode reader as reading device of the identification code (Abstract).

Fujiwara and Yokomori are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, component management for mounting systems.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the teaching of Fujiwara with the teachings of Yokomori.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these references because Yokomori teaches mounting system by which component management of high accuracy is performed while reducing cost (Abstract).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean P. Shechtman whose telephone number is (571) 272-3754. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SPS

Sean P. Shechtman



August 19, 2007

8/19/07